DAILY REPORT OF MINUTES

National Council of the Congregational Churches
Springfield, Mass.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

AFTERNOON SESSION

Meeting called to order at 2.00 o'clock by the Moderator.

The Committee on Nominations announced the following appointments on the Committee on Commissions as authorized in yesterday's session:

COMMITTEE ON COMMISSIONS

Rev. E. H. Byington, Mass.
Rev. Raymond Calkins, Mass.
Mr. F. J. Harwood, Wis.
Rev. F. J. Van Horn, Oregon
Mr. A. M. Gibbons, Ohio

Prayer was offered by the First Assistant Moderator, Rev. Hugh Pedley.

The afternoon session was devoted to a platform meeting with program arranged by the Commission on Missions on the general theme: "The Imperative Resting Upon the Church in View of World Conditions."

Rev. Rockwell H. Porter, the Moderator of the Council and the Chairman of the Commission on Missions, introduced the presentation of the various phases of the general theme of the session by speaking briefly of the efforts of the Commission on Missions at unification of its various branches of Missionary Endeavor. Other speakers were President Mary E. Woolley of Mt. Holyoke College, Rev Charles F. Aked of Missouri, Rev. Edward W. Cross of Iowa, Rev. Wm. S. Beard of New York and Rev. Chester B. Emerson of Michigan.

An impressive panorama of our world wide work was presented under the direction of Rev. D. Brewer Eddy of the American Board, and Rev. E. M. Halliday of the Church Extension Boards.

Splendid music was furnished by the Home Missionary Sawtooth Octet and the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

EVENING SESSION

The evening session in the Municipal Auditorium was attended to utmost capacity to hear the stirring addresses of Sherwood Eddy on "World Conditions" and Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick on "Christianizing America."

The Moderator read the following telegram from the President of the United States:

Washington, D. C.,
October 17, 5.45 P. M.

Rev. Rockwell Harmon Potter,
Moderator National Council of Congregational Churches,
Springfield, Mass.

Please convey my thanks to the Council for honoring me with the office of Honorary Moderator. The strength of religion is the strength of the State. Your devotion to the cause of righteousness is a guarantee of the permanent security of our institutions.

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

MORNING SESSION

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator promptly at 9.00 o'clock.

Upon the recommendation of the Business Committee, through its Chairman, Rev. R. W. Palmer, the matter of invitations for the meeting of the Council in 1925 was given first place upon the docket.

Invitations were presented as follows:

First Church of Akron, Ohio, through its pastor, Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, and delegation.

First Church of Omaha, Neb., through its pastor, Rev. F. G. Smith.

First Church of Washington, D. C., through its pastor, Rev. J. N. Pierce.

First Church of Boise, Idaho, through Rev. Henry L. Bailey.

First Church of Topeka, Kansas, through Secretary Burton.

On motion of Rev. R. W. Palmer of Honolulu it was

Voted: That the Council accept the invitation of the First Church of Washington, D. C., for the next meeting in 1925.

The Business Committee presented and recommended for adoption the following resolution pertaining to the relationship of the National Council to the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America:

RESOLVED, that the National Council of Congregational Churches hereby definitely affirms its constituent membership in the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, and, as a tangible and practical expression of this membership, authorizes the Commission on Missions to contribute to said Federal Council such amounts as it deems wise from the miscellaneous item of the apportionment, and further directs that a report from the Federal Council be a part of the program at each of our biennial meetings, and further that the Congregational representatives on the Federal Council be charged with the responsibility for arranging, in co-operation with the program committee, for such report or other presentation of the work of the Federal Council.

Upon recommendation of the Business Committee five minutes were devoted to hearing from the fraternal delegate to the Congregational Union of England and Wales. Rev. Frank Dyer of California responded with greetings from that body.

On motion of the Business Committee through its Chairman, Rev. R. W. Palmer the report of the Commission on Missions as given yesterday morning by the Chairman, Rev. Rockwell H. Potter, and found on pages 26-32 of the "Grey Book" together with resolutions and recommendations received favorable action.

On motion of Secretary Burton it was decided that the Moderator be authorized to call any special meeting of the Council necessary for consideration of business.

The devotional service was conducted by Rev. Jay T. Stocking of New Jersey whose topic was "The Waiting Reinforcements."

The Annual Meetings of the Congregational Education Society and Congregational Publishing Society were held with Dean Charles R. Brown of Connecticut, presiding.

On motion, the report of the Committee on Commissions, which the Chairman, Rev. E. H. Byington declared was ready, was adopted and ordered printed in the minutes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMISSIONS

The "Commission on Missions" is a permanent Commission and does not come under the survey of this report.

All the other Commissions, according to the Constitution expire at the end of each biennium and it is for each Council to determine what Commissions it needs for the next biennium. In every period there have been some Commissions that failed to function satisfactorily. Several causes contribute to this result: (1) The members of a Commission are so widely scattered that attendance at a meeting would take from one to ten days of time for each man; (2) their traveling expenses would be far above any funds available for this purpose, and there is no money for investigation or experimentation.

The result is that commissions rarely are able to have satisfactory meetings; some never meet from one biennial to the next, and the sole accomplishment of some is to make a report for the next Council.

Another difficulty is that sometimes commissions overlap.

Sometimes also they are appointed impulsively and are not given a definite sphere of action. If we are to have commissions an effective part of our system, some radical changes must be made.

Many feel that we should eliminate all commissions that have fields of labor which are being cultivated by the Societies. The Societies are agents of this Council. Why appoint other agents to do the same things?

(1) We recommend that each Commission consist of active members and corresponding members. The active members shall constitute one-fourth and shall reside within a short distance of some Congregational center, that they may have several meetings without too great an expenditure of time and money. They shall present by mail to the corresponding members, who shall reside in different parts of the country, the main points at issue, and shall take final action after the replies received have been considered.

The Commissions shall ordinarily consist of twenty-four members, six active and eighteen corresponding members.

(2) We recommend that the Commission on Polity be discontinued and its duties transferred to the Executive Committee of the National Council.

(3) That the Commissions on "Co-operation with Foreign-speaking Churches," on "Inter-racial Co-operation" and the "Near East Relief" be merged into one, designated as the Commission on "International and Inter-racial Relations."

(4) That the title of the Commission on "Comity, Federation and Unity" be changed to "Inter-Church Relations."

(5) That the Commissions on "Recruiting of the Ministry," and on "Religious and Moral Education," which are associated with the Education Society, which is working along these lines, be discontinued. If after two years it shall appear to the Education Society, or others, that this is a mistake, and they are needed, this action can be rescinded and the Commissions restored.

(6) That the "Men's Work Commission" be merged with the "Social Service Commission," and that to them be committed also the survey of the country church and agricultural life problems, these added features to receive equal consideration, with the others.

(7) That the designation of the "Temperance" Commission be changed to "Law Enforcement."

(8) That the Pilgrim Memorial Commission be discontinued as requested; and also the Commission on the Status of the Ministry,

which has accomplished it work and functions with the Commission on Recruiting the Ministry.

The Near East Relief Commission made report through its Chairman, Rev. Clarence H. Wilson of New Jersey, (cf. pages 51-55 of the "Grey Book.") The report was adopted with the addition to the resolution beginning on page 53 of the words: "This both in fulfillment of our Christian duty and in recognition of our American responsibility in the comity of nations."

The other resolutions were adopted with suggested eliminations and the addition of the following sentence: "We urge our Government of our Christian duty and in recognition of our American problem in the Near East."

On motion of Rev. Clarence A. Vincent of Florida, it was

Voted: That we recommend to the Council making provision for the appointment of a committee or commission to confer with Near East Relief as to its program of education and promotion and to co-operate with similar committees from other bodies.

On report of the Nominating Committee the following were elected by acclamation: Secretary of the National Council, Rev. Charles E. Burton of New York; Treasurer of the National Council, Mr. Franklin H. Warner of New York, President of the Congregational Foundation for Education, Rev. Geo. W. Nash of Illinois.

On report of the Nominating Committee the following appointments were made on the Commission on Missions:

COMMISSION ON MISSIONS

AT LARGE CLASS

For Four Years

Mr. Geo. H. Warner, N. Y.
Mrs. Chas. S. Thayer, Ct.
Judge A. C. Shattuck, Ohio
Mrs. Geo. H. Schneider, Ill.
Mr. Elbert Harvey, Mass.
Rev. E. B. Allen, Ill.
Prof. E. C. Goddard, Mich.
Mr. F. E. Reeve, Ill.

REPRESENTING THE SOCIETIES

For Two Years

American Board—Rev. Arthur H. Bradford, R. I.
American Missionary Association—Rev. G. G. Atkins, Michigan.

Executive Committee National Council—Rev. Chas. F. Carter, Conn.
Congregational Education Society
Congregational Publishing Society—Prof. L. A. Weigle
Women's Home Missionary Federation—Mrs. C. R. Wilson, Michigan
Congregational Foundation for Education—Pres. Henry C. King.
Women's Boards—Mrs. E. A. Osbornson.
Church Extension Boards—Rev. R. H. Potter.
Board of Ministerial Relief and Annuity Fund—Mr. Geo. N. Whittlesley.

STATE CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES

For Two Years

California, Northern—Rev. T. T. Giffen.
California, Southern—(to be supplied).
Illinois—Rev. Jas. A. Richards.
Kansas—Rev. W. M. Elledge.
Massachusetts—Mr. Henry K. Hyde.
Michigan—Rev. E. W. Bishop.
Minnesota—Mr. A. W. Fagerstrom.
Nebraska—Rev. J. A. Holmes.
Vermont—Rev. C. C. Adams.
Wisconsin—Rev. C. H. Beale.

STATE CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES

For Four Years

Connecticut—Rev. J. L. Shively.
Iowa—Rev. E. W. Cross.
Indiana—Rev. Arthur J. Folsom.
Maine—Rev. Daniel I. Gross.
Missouri—Mr. C. H. Kirshner.
New Hampshire—Rev. Lucius H. Thayer.
New York—Mr. Clark H. Hammond.
Ohio—Rev. Lloyd Douglas.
Rhode Island—Rev. Asbury Krom.
Washington—Rev. H. C. Mason.

CONFERENCE GROUPS REPRESENTATIVES

For Two Years

The Colored States Organizations—Rev. Russell S. Brown, Georgia.
Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana—Rev. Thomas H. Harper, Texas.

No. Dakota, So. Dakota, Montana—Rev. Glen Lindley, South Dakota.
Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona (to be supplied.)
Scandinavian Conference—Rev. G. E. Pihl, Connecticut.

CONFERENCE GROUPS REPRESENTATIVES

For Four Years

New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia—Mr. Lucius R. Eastman, New Jersey.

No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky—Rev. C. A. Vincent, Florida.

Oregon, Idaho—Rev. Clement C. Clarke, Oregon.
Hawaii—Rev. A. W. Palmer.
German General Conference—Rev. J. F. Berghoefer, Illinois.

The Chairman of the Business Committee announced the following order of business for Saturday morning: The Boston Seamen's Friend Society to be represented by Franklin P. Shumway; the report of the Commission on Polity; and if time permits to hear the representative of "The Congregationalist."

Besides the order of business the morning session included addresses by Rev. Francis E. Clark, President of the World's Christian Endeavor Union and Rev. James L. Barton, Chairman of the American Commission on Near East Relief.